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ABSTRACT

The chronological development of the National Library of Medicine is traced from 1836 through 1970. The years of major accomplishments are especially noted. For example: the first issue of "Index Medicus" was published in 1879; in 1913 Fielding H. Garrison published "An Introduction to the History of Medicine;" the first meeting of the Association of Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library was held in 1944; in 1956 (March 13,), Senator Lister Hill and Senator John F. Kennedy submitted to Congress Bill S.3430; "to promote the progress of medicine and to advance the national health and welfare by creating a National Library of Medicine;" the library began Research and Development Program in 1967; and in 1970 a new MEDLARS publication, "Abridged Index Medicus" was published to serve the smaller hospital libraries and individual practitioners. This history is followed by a selected bibliography of materials concerning the National Library of Medicine. (Author/NH)

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HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY AND SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

RELATING TO THE

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

HISTORY OF MEDICINE DIVISION

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

1971

LI 003 420

"Every library should try to be complete on something, if it were only the history of pin-heads. I don't mean that I buy all the trashy compilations on my special subjects, but I try to have all the works of any real importance relating to them, old as well as new."

--Oliver Wendell Holmes, Poet at the Breakfast Table

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

THE EARLY YEARS

In 1836 the U.S. Army's first surgeon general included an item in his estimate of official expenditures for the following year that read: "Medical Books for Office, $150." Viewed retrospectively, this commitment by Dr. Joseph Lovell of nearly seven per cent of his annual office budget for this purpose may have been the most significant decision of his professional career.

Dr. Joseph Lovell

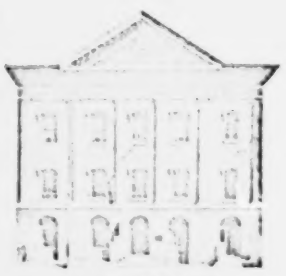
For it is from that year and the bulging bookshelves in Lovell's two-room office in a long-forgotten building in Washington City that the National Library of Medicine officially traces its historic origins. No medical prophet could have foreseen the inevitable course that followed until now, nearly a century and a half later, this great library holds the most prestigious and important collection of health sciences literature ever assembled.

A Bostonian and Harvard graduate, Lovell had served as an Army medical officer for only six years when in 1818 at the age of 29 he was appointed surgeon general, a new staff position in Washington established in a Congressional reorganization of the Army. He initiated the policy of providing his officers in the field, as well as those assigned to hospitals, with medical textbooks and professional journals. Copies were also retained in his office for the use of his small staff.

By 1840 Lovell's successor, Dr. Thomas Lawson, listed "some 130 titles and about 200 volumes" in a handwritten report by a member of his staff that is now a precious archive, "A Catalogue of Books in the Library of the Surgeon General's Office." Lovell's random collection of books was officially a library. Actually it became a mobile library that accompanied the surgeon general's office around early Washington in its frequent moves to borrowed or rented quarters, sometimes in private dwellings.

Riggs Bank Building

During Lawson's 25-year tenure as surgeon general—the longest on record—an increasing number of expenditures for medical books, journal subscriptions, bindings, and bookcases began to appear in his office records. When the first printed catalog of the Library's holdings appeared in 1864 it listed 1,365 volumes under nine classes of literature, and included the date and place of publication of each title. By this time the surgeon general's office was in a brick building, formerly a residence, adjacent to the Riggs Bank on the northwest corner of Fifteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. The Library occupied the front parlor of the house.



Ford's Theater

After the assassination of President Lincoln in Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865, the government bought the ill-fated three-story building and assigned it to the War Department as an annex of the surgeon general's office. The structure that was to become a Lincoln shrine was refurbished to provide quarters and facilities for a new medical museum, a chemical laboratory, mortuary records, and the books and periodicals of the surgeon general's library, now numbering more than 2,000 volumes. The library had found its first "permanent" home and would not move again for 20 years.

LIBRARIANS AND DIRECTORS

1870 - 1895	Colonel John Shaw Billings
1896 - 1897	Colonel David Low Huntington
1898 - 1902	Major James Cushing Merrill
1902 - 1902	Major Walter Reed[1]
1903 - 1904	Brigadier-General Calvin DeWitt
1904 - 1913	Brigadier-General Walter Drew McCaw
1913 - 1918	Colonel Champe Carter McCulloch
1918 - 1919	Brigadier-General Francis Anderson Winter
1919 - 1919	Colonel Paul Frederick Straub
1919 - 1924	Major-General Robert Ernest Noble
1924 - 1927	Colonel James Matthew Phalen
1927 - 1932	Colonel Percy Moreau Ashburn
1932 - 1936	Major Edgar Erskine Hume
1936 - 1944	Colonel Harold Wellington Jones
1945 - 1946	Colonel L. L. Gardner
1946 - 1949	Colonel Joseph H. McNinch
1949 - 1963	Colonel Frank B. Rogers
1964 -	Dr. Martin M. Cummings

[1] Major Walter Reed had told F. H. Garrison that "it was the highest ambition of his life to succeed Colonel Billings as Librarian of the Surgeon General's Office." Billings selected Reed for this position, but Reed died one week after his appointment. (Edgar E. Hume, "Garrison and the Army Medical Library, 1891-1930," Bulletin of the History of Medicine 5 (1937), 342)

FIRST BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE - 1957

Ex officio members:

Dr. Leroy E. Burney, Surgeon General, Public Health Service

Major General S. B. Hays, Surgeon General, U.S. Army

Rear Admiral B. W. Hogan, Surgeon General, U.S. Navy

Major General D. C. Ogle, Surgeon General, U.S. Air Force

Dr. William S. Middleton, Chief Medical Director, Veterans Administration

Dr. John T. Wilson, Asst. Dir. for Biological and Medical Sciences, National Science Foundation

Dr. L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress

Appointed members:

Term expiring 1958:

Dr. Worth B. Daniels, Georgetown University (elected Chairman)

Dr. Benjamin Spector, Tufts University

Term expiring 1959:

Dr. I. S. Ravdin, University of Pennsylvania

Miss Mary Louise Marshall, Tulane University

Term expiring 1960:

Dr. Basil G. Bibby, University of Rochester

Dr. Jean A. Curran, William Bingham, 2nd, Trust for Charity, Boston

Dr. Champ Lyons, Medical College of Alabama (elected Vice-Chairman)

Term expiring 1961:

Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, Baylor University

Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr., University of Michigan

Dr. Ernest H. Volwiler, Abbott Laboratories

CHRONOLOGY

1836 - Origin of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office with collection of books in the office of Surgeon General Joseph Lovell.[1]

1840 - First listing of books in library: "A Catalog of Books in the Library of the Surgeon General's Office." This was a manuscript catalog.

1864 - Library issues first published catalog. The work listed 1,365 volumes, divided into 9 classes, and included the place and date of publication.

1865 - John Shaw Billings received or assumed nominal charge of the collection of books known as the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office.[2]

1866 - Library housed in Ford's Theater (513 Tenth Street, N.W.).

1876 - Specimen Fasciculus of a Catalogue of the National Medical Library issued.

1876 - Dr. Robert Fletcher joins library staff.

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[1] It is probable that this office was located in the Vevan house on G Street, N.W. (Washington, D.C.), but exact location has not been identified; Lovell was Surgeon General from 1818 to 1836. The first request for monies for the library appeared in the 1836 estimate of expenses of the Surgeon-General's Office. Of the total estimate of $2,400 for the Office, $150 was for "Medical Books." Regarding the origin of the Library, however, "the seeds were sown well before 1836." (Schullian-Rogers, "The National Library of Medicine," 3-4). John S. Billings on the subject "who founded the National Medical Library?" writes: "For many years there was a small collection of medical books and journals in the Surgeon-General's office at Washington, which collection was commenced by Surgeon-General Lovell prior to 1836." (The Medical Record 17 (March 13, 1880), 298-299)

[2] Under the direction of Dr. Billings and with the support of Surgeon-General Joseph K. Barnes the library grew substantially. "At the commencement of the [Civil] War this collection amounted to between three and four hundred

1879 - First issue of Index Medicus; a Monthly Classified Record of the Current Medical Literature of the World, compiled under the supervision of John S. Billings and Robert Fletcher. Published until 1926 (except 1900-02).

1880 - John S. Billings suggests that statistical data be recorded on cards and that a machine be invented for sorting and tabulating.[3]

1880 - Publication of volume I (A-Berlinski) of the Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office.

1883 - Surgeon General Robert Murray consolidates the Army Medical Museum and the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office into Museum and Library Division. J. S. Billings in charge of both units.

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volumes. . . . When the library came under my [Billings'] charge, in the fall of 1865, it contained . . . about 1,800 volumes." In 1871, the library had 13,000 volumes; by 1873 the holdings included 25,000 books and 15,000 pamphlets; and, in 1880 the library contained 50,000 books and 60,000 pamphlets. (The Medical Record, 298-299; Scheirer, Notes on the Army Surgeon General's Office in Washington, 1818-1948, p. 36)

[3] In 1880, Billings had charge of vital statistics in the Tenth Census and suggested to Herman Hollerith, a Special Agent of the Census Office, that cards could be used to record individual data and that a machine could do the mechanical work of tabulating. Hollerith studied the problem, told Billings that he thought he could work out a solution, and asked him if he wanted to join the project. Billings declined the offer--"his only wish was to see the problem solved." By 1884, Hollerith had developed the first tabulating machine and the cards on which to store data. According to Garrison, Billings suggested that statistical data "might be recorded on a single card or slip by punching holes in it, and that these cards might then be sorted and counted by mechanical means according to selected groups of these perforations." (Garrison, John Shaw Billings; A Memoir, p. 343) Virginia Hollerith, daughter of the inventor, writes: Dr. Billings suggested "using cards with the description of the individual shown by notches in the edge of the card and a device something like a type distributing machine." (Virginia Hollerith, Biographical Sketch of Herman Hollerith, in Modern Manuscripts Collection, National Library of Medicine)

1885 (March) - President Chester A. Arthur approves new building for library.[4]

1887 - Library housed in newly constructed brick building on the Washington Mall.[5]

1891 (March) - Fielding H. Garrison joins library staff as a clerk.

1895 - John Shaw Billings leaves library to join Department of Hygiene of the University of Pennsylvania.

1895 - Volume XVI (W-Zythus) of the Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office is issued and concludes First Series. The first series of the I-C contained 176,364 author and 168,557 subject entries for books and pamphlets, and subject entries for 511,112 journal articles. The library at this time held 116,847 books and 191,598 pamphlets.

1903-27 - Index Medicus, Second and Third Series, published under patronage of the Carnegie Institution.

1913 - Fielding H. Garrison publishes An Introduction to the History of Medicine. The work went through four editions.

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[4] That "a brick and metal fireproof building, to be used for the safekeeping of the records, library, and museum of the Surgeon-General's Office of the United States Army . . . be constructed upon the Government reservation in the city of Washington, in the vicinity of the National Museum and the Smithsonian Institution," at a cost not to exceed $200,000. (Quoted in Schullian-Rogers, 99)

[5] Between 1865 and 1887 the Surgeon General had his office over the old Riggs Bank. Here, among other official business, books and pamphlets and other materials, were accessioned and cataloged, and then sent to the Library Hall in the Ford's Theater building on Tenth Street. The amount of money, $200,000, appropriated for the Mall structure was found to be insufficient by $50,000 and changes in the plans had to be made. Even at the time the building was completed some people considered it too small and inadequately fireproof for the valuable works it contained.

1922 - The Library of the Surgeon General's Office becomes the Army Medical Library (Army Regulations 40-405, 10 January 1922).

1927 - Index Medicus merged with Quarterly Cumulative Index to become Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus. Published under joint sponsorship of the library and American Medical Association through 1931, and thereafter by the American Medical Association, through 1956.

1937 - The Annual Report of the Surgeon General contains its first mention of bibliofilms. The Bibliofilm Service of the Department of Agriculture sent a man to the Library two or three times a week to operate a microfilm camera furnished by Dr. Atherton Seidell.

1938 - Congress authorizes land and a new building for the Army Medical Library (Act of 15 June 1938; 52 Stat. 684). The proposed location was East Capitol Street, bounded by Third, Fourth and A Streets, S.E., near the Folger Library, the Supreme Court, and the Library of Congress.

1938 - Congress passes bills authorizing a new building for the Library and Museum at a cost not to exceed $3,750,000.[6]

1941-59 - Publication of Current List of Medical Literature. The work was originally issued under the auspices of the Friends of the Army Medical Library and (from 1942-45) the Medical Library Association.

1942 (June) - Photoduplication service incorporated into library operations.

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[6] In June, 1940, Congress appropriated $130,000 for plans for the new building. In 1941, an amendment authorized an additional million dollars for acquisition of a site on Capitol Hill. World War II suspended further action on the project. (Schullian-Rogers, 112)

1942 - Cleveland Branch of the Army Medical Library established.[7]

1943 (January) - Decision is made to supply microfilm without cost to all government agencies and to all individuals connected with accredited institutions.[8]

1943-44 - Survey of Library, financed by Rockefeller Foundation and carried out under auspices of the American Library Association.[9]

1944 - First meeting of the Association of Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library.

1948 - Department of Defense Committee on Medical and Hospital Services (Hawley Board) recommends that the name of the Library be changed to Armed Forces Medical Library.

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[7] Space problems, the danger of fire, building deterioration and the possibility of air attack were all factors in the decision to move numerous valuable items from the Washington building to Cleveland. The materials were housed in the Allen Memorial Medical Library and between August, 1942 and January, 1943, a total of 20,167 rare items were transferred. The presence of a bindery at the Cleveland Library facilitated the restoration and binding of many valuable items shipped to Cleveland. (The National Medical Library; Report of a Survey of the Army Medical Library. Chicago: American Library Association, 1944)

[8] "The Library recognizes that microfilm copying is a service which publicly supported reference libraries may well perform on an equal basis with that provided for readers and by interlibrary loans. In the pursuance of such a policy, microfilms will be sent without charge in lieu of the loan of books to those who prefer them or where books or journals cannot be loaned." (Quoted in Schullian-Rogers, 111)

[9] The surveying committee consisted of Keyes D. Metcalf, Janet Doe, Thomas P. Fleming, Mary Louise Marshall, L. Quincy Mumford, and Andrew D. Osborn. The report studied and evaluated all facets of library operation and enabled the library to "reorganize upon a firm and rational basis and one in accord with the most advanced principles of library science." (NLM, Annual Report, 1944)

1948 - Library issues its preliminary edition of Army Medical Library Classifications. In 1951 the Classification was published and subsequent revised editions of the work appear regularly. When the National Library of Medicine Act was passed the title was changed to National Library of Medicine Classification.

1948 - The Surgeon General appoints a committee of consultants on medical indexing.[10]

1949 - Armed Forces Medical Advisory Committee (Cooper Committee) recommends that the Library be declared a civil function of the Department of the Army and that a new building be acquired.

1950 - A Catalogue of Incunabula and Manuscripts in the Army Medical Library, prepared by Dorothy M. Schullian and Francis E. Sommer, published for the Honorary Consultants by Henry Schuman.

1950 - Library issues its first annual catalog: the Army Medical Library Author Catalog, 1949. The work included a subject index. In 1955 a cumulative Catalog (1950-54) was issued in six volumes and contained 180,000 entries for books and serial titles.

1950 - Johns Hopkins Research Project under the direction of Dr. Sanford V. Larkey studies problems of medical bibliography with emphasis on the possible application of machine methods. The project was established at the Welch Medical Library and supported by the Army Medical Library.

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[10] Consisting of twelve members, with Dr. Lewis H. Weed, Chairman, the committee's instructions were to "study the indexing requirements of modern medical science and the publications of the Army Medical Library as devices to satisfy those requirements." Four subcommittees--on need, use, techniques, and scope--were established. (NLM, Annual Report, 1949)

1950 - The Current List of Medical Literature, previously published weekly, is revised under the editorship of Seymour I. Taine and issued monthly.

1950 - Decision is made to cease publication of the Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office.[11]

1951 - Association of Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library, Inc. is dissolved.[12]

1951 - National Research Council (Corner Committee) reports to the Secretary of Defense on the proper location of the Library in the government structure.

1952 - Secretary of Defense Robert A. Lovett signs directive converting the Army Medical Library into the Armed Forces Medical Library, a joint agency of the three military departments.

1952 - Friends of the Armed Forces Medical Library organize with purpose "to promote knowledge of, and interest in, the functions, resources, and services of the . . . Library, and to support programs for its development."

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[11] A committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Lewis Weed, and later Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, studied the problem for almost three years before reaching this conclusion. Concurrently with this study, Dr. Sanford V. Larkey surveyed the field of medical periodicals, subject-heading principles, and utilization of machine methods in medical indexing.

[12] Because of the change in the Library's status it became impractical to continue the Association. At the eighth annual meeting of the Honorary Consultants a resolution was passed to terminate the corporate existence of the Association. Dr. Wilburt C. Davison, retiring president of the group, invited the members to join in the formation of a group to be known as the Friends of the Armed Forces Medical Library.

1953 - Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson issues memorandum regarding planning, budgeting, design and construction of a new library building.

1954 - Hoover Commission (Task Force on Federal Medical Services of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government) begins hearings on the Library situation. The report was issued in February, 1955, and recommended the creation of a National Library of Medicine and the transfer of the Armed Forces Medical Library thereto.

1956 (March 13) - Senator Lister Hill and Senator John F. Kennedy submit to Congress Bill S.3430: "to promote the progress of medicine and to advance the national health and welfare by creating a National Library of Medicine."[13]

1956 - The Armed Forces Medical Library Advisory Group holds last meeting. During the four years of its existence the Advisory Group proved its excellence as an adjunct to the Library administration. In a sense, it served as a prototype for the Board of Regents which succeeded it.

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[13] On May 29, 1956, the Senate Committee reported the bill out favorably, amending it to provide for operation of the Library by the Public Health Service (Senate Report 2071 [84th Cong., 2d Sess.], May 29, 1956). On June 11, 1956, the Senate passed S.3430, as amended. Hearings in the House indicated a difference of opinion as to the site of the new library. On July 19, 1956, the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce submitted House Report No. 2826, reporting favorably on S.3430, with an amendment which left the decision as to location of the new building up to the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine. On July 23, the bill was passed by the House and on July 24, the House version was concurred in by the Senate and sent to the President.

1956 (April) - Symposium on the "acquisitions policy of the National Medical Library."[14]

1956 (August 3) - National Library of Medicine Act (S.3430) signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as Public Law 941, 84th Congress (70 Stat. 960).

1957 - Friends of the Armed Forces Medical Library disband.[15]

1957 (April) - The Board of Regents of National Library of Medicine designates a ten-acre tract on the National Institutes of Health reservation in Bethesda, Maryland, as the site for the new library building.

1957 (September) - Library adopts new loan policy consisting of (1) all individual requests have to be channeled through another library and (2) interlibrary loan service and the photoduplication service are considered as two phases of the same plan with the Library furnishing photocopies in lieu of the original works whenever possible, taking into account copyright restrictions, length of the item requested, costs, and other pertinent data.

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[14] Participants were Frank B. Rogers, Verner W. Clapp, Benjamin Manchester, Homer W. Smith, Richard H. Shryock, Frederick G. Kilgour, Arthur E. Bestor, and Keyes D. Metcalf. Proceedings were printed by the National Library of Medicine in 1957.

[15] With the passage of the National Library of Medicine Act, the Friends of Armed Forces Medical Library felt that their major objectives had been achieved. Action was taken to disband the organization and the $767.35 remaining in the Friends' treasury was presented as a gift to the National Library of Medicine. (NLM, Annual Report, 1957)

1958 - Formal library intern training program initiated.

1960 - The Current List of Medical Literature and the Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus are superseded by the mechanized monthly Index Medicus, new series, and the annual Cumulated Index Medicus, published by the American Medical Association. With volume 6 (1965) the Cumulated Index Medicus was published by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

1962 (April) - Library begins operation in its new seven million dollar building in Bethesda.[16]

1964 - MEDLARS (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System) becomes operational, and is first used to produce the Index Medicus for January, 1964. The issue for August, 1964, was the first to be produced on GRACE.

1964 - MEDLARS Demand Search Service instituted.

1965 (October 22) - Medical Library Assistance Act (Public Law 89-291) signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson.[17]

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[16] August, 1956: National Library of Medicine Act passed with authorization for new building -- April, 1957: NLM Board of Regents selects building site -- June, 1957: design contract awarded to O'Connor and Kilham, Architects -- July, 1958: construction funds appropriated -- February, 1959: final review of building plan and specifications -- May, 1959: construction contract awarded to Arthur Venneri Company -- June 12, 1959: groundbreaking ceremony -- June 17, 1959: construction begins -- December 14, 1961: dedication ceremony -- April, 1962: History of Medicine Collections returned from Cleveland -- May 11, 1962: the slip from the Hippocrates plane tree on the island of Cos planted on library grounds.

[17] The new law created broad responsibilities for the Library to help the Nation's medical libraries provide vital services to medical education, research and practice. A Regional Medical Library network consisting of eleven libraries

1965 - Library issues the first of its "Recurring Bibliographies." Although Cerebrovascular Bibliography was the first bibliography produced through GRACE, the Index of Rheumatology was the first recurring bibliography processed by MEDLARS from inception to retrieval.

1965 - In order to provide continuing "current awareness" on specific subjects, the Library inaugurates "Recurring Demand Searches." Sixteen were being distributed during the first year.

1966 - Bibliography of the History of Medicine, No. 1, 1965, published.

1966 - Current Catalog appears as biweekly with quarterly and annual cumulations, produced through MEDLARS, replacing the annual catalog published since 1950.

1966 - National Bureau of Standards report on specifications for microfilming, prepared for NLM.

1967 - Publication of A Catalogue of Sixteenth Century Printed Books in the National Library of Medicine, compiled by Richard J. Durling.

1967 - Library begins Research and Development Program.

1967 - First Regional Medical Library (Countway) established.

1968 - NLM is made a Bureau of the National Institutes of Health.

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was brought into existence as a result of this law; the last two libraries being selected in fiscal year 1970. The current extramural program of the Library owes its inception to this legislation.

1968 (January 9) - Department of Health, Education and Welfare establishes new organization for NLM which includes audiovisual programs, incorporating activities of the National Medical Audiovisual Center.

1968 (August 3) - Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications established (Public Law 90-456).

1968 - Directors of the Library of Congress, the National Agricultural Library, and the National Library of Medicine meet in order to provide policy and guidance to the U.S. National Libraries Task Force on Automation and other Cooperative Services.

1970 - A new MEDLARS publication, Abridged Index Medicus, is published to serve the smaller hospital libraries and individual practitioners.

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THE BILLINGS ERA

Nearly one hundred years ago Army Surgeon General Joseph K. Barnes, in his annual report for 1873 to Secretary of War, prophetically mentioned "the interest felt by the medical profession of the country in the attempt to establish a National Medical Library worthy of the name."

Dr. John Shaw Billings

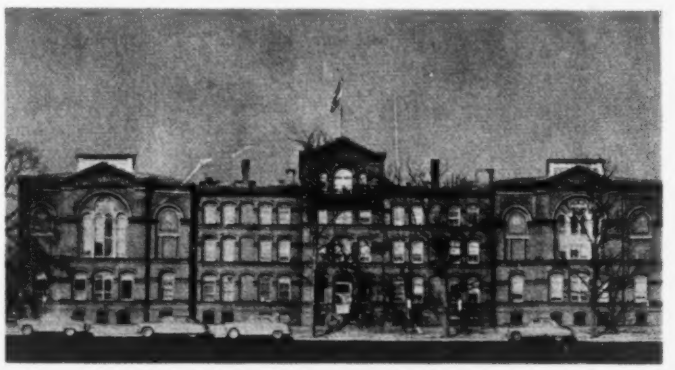
A highly professional man, Barnes had more than a passing interest in the growing collection of medical books and pamphlets already in his office when he became surgeon general. He also had the foresight to assign a rising young medical officer to his staff in 1865 and, among numerous administrative duties, to appoint him librarian. His name was John Shaw Billings, and he was to become one of the medical giants of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Billings, who gained an international reputation in medical education, public health, hospital design and construction, and vital statistics, attained eminence in medical bibliography and librarianship during the 30 years he headed the Library. Strongly supported by Barnes, he greatly increased acquisitions by purchase, exchanges and gifts, inaugurated loans of books without fees (but required a deposit), initiated a publication program, and fought unrelentingly for a new fireproof building to house the great collection he was assembling to be a truly National Medical Library.

First Serial Publications

Billings' monumental achievement as a librarian was the conception and production of the *Index-Catalogue,* a colossal task of compiling the vast holdings of the library by subject and author in a single alphabet, to provide medical students and practitioners with access to the available literature. The first of the 16 volumes that were to comprise the first series of the *Index-Catalogue* was published in 1880. The series contained citations to 116,847 books and 191,598 pamphlets, practically all of which Billings had himself added to the Library. With his long-time associate and collaborator, Dr. Robert Fletcher, he also produced the *Index Medicus,* a continuing compilation of current literature.

By the fall of 1887 a new three-story red brick building on the south side of the Mall, designed by Billings, was completed at a cost of $200,000. This was $50,000 less than the amount originally requested and necessitated the deletion of many needed facilities and improvisation in other areas. But the task of moving the collection, now grown to 51,000 books and about 57,000 pamphlets, was completed in time to belatedly celebrate the Library's fiftieth anniversary in its new home.



On the Mall, 1887-1961

The Library continued to grow in resources, services and prestige under the leadership of the distinguished physicians who followed Billings. In 1922 its name was changed to the Army Medical Library. Later, during an era of unification of agencies under the new Department of Defense, it was redesignated the Armed Forces Medical Library. In 1956 an amendment to the Public Health Service Act created the National Library of Medicine under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

NEW HORIZONS FOR MEDICAL LIBRARIES

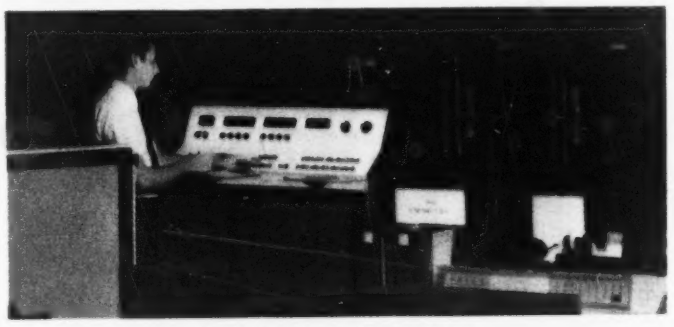
The world's largest collection of health sciences literature of the National Library of Medicine is preserved in a modern, functional structure with an eye-catching, hyperbolic-paraboloid roof in Bethesda, Maryland, that was dedicated in 1961.

Two important factors contribute to the expanding services this great center of information and learning provides physicians and medical students, and other members of the health professions. One is the Library's international computerized system of compiling, storing and retrieving references to medical literature, known as Medlars. The other is the passage of the Medical Library Assistance Act under which, for the first time, grants are available to medical libraries to increase their resources and services. In addition, the law authorized the establishment of the Regional Medical Library Program to develop a nationwide biomedical communications network.

Medlars has also given impetus to the Library's unprecedented publications program. *Index Medicus*, which provides a monthly bibliography of current literature, and the *Current Catalog* are produced more promptly through the use of computer-driven phototypesetters. A popular new publication, *Abridged Index Medicus*, contains literature citations from the 100 most important clinical medical journals printed in English. More than a score of recurring specialized bibliographies cover many of the specialized fields of medicine.

Main Reading Room

The staff and resources of the National Medical Audiovisual Center in Atlanta, Georgia, formerly a part of the Public Health Service's Center for Communicable Diseases, in 1967 were assigned to the jurisdiction of the National Library of Medicine. By a Senate Joint Resolution in 1968, the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications was established within the National Library of Medicine. This new Center has broad research and development responsibilities in the application of computer and communication technology to medical communications, education and research.



Medlars Computer System

But great advances in communication technology and literature retrieval have not diminished the personal gratification of visiting a library to experience sensory contact with books and their contents. Here the quest for knowledge is more pleasurable and more rewarding. Recently a physician, in concluding a list of acknowledgements in a newly-published book on heart disease, wrote: "In my opinion there is no more satisfactory source of help than librarians. They always seem overjoyed to find somebody who wants to learn something."

The National Library of Medicine is such a learning place for the health professions.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

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Bethesda, Maryland 20014

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
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